

# Hot Tips

*Good info for the new ham, and old stuff to refresh your memory*



## The prepared vehicle

Being prepared for an emergency at home is important, but how about when you need to evacuate, or when you're already on the road? Does your vehicle (car, truck, RV, boat, etc.) have everything you and your family need, to survive for a couple of days or more, in case of an incident that forces you to be portable?

Here are a few things take or consider, to be better prepared before you leave home:

### Radio equipment

- \_\_\_ Mobile radio installed and programmed
- \_\_\_ External vehicle radio antenna installed
- \_\_\_ Vehicle broadcast radio works properly

### Personal

- \_\_\_ **Go-kit** (backpack, personal and tool items)
- \_\_\_ **First-aid kit** (band-aids, gauze, antibiotic, anti-itch, Tylenol, anti-diarrheal, Pepto)
- \_\_\_ Bottled water
- \_\_\_ Basic food (**MREs**)
- \_\_\_ Hygiene needs (toilet paper, toothbrush, feminine, deodorant, comb, wipes)
- \_\_\_ Medication (prescription, OTC, vitamins)
- \_\_\_ Clothing (hoodie, gloves, coat, socks)
- \_\_\_ Blanket (**regular** and **emergency**)
- \_\_\_ Special or disability needs

### Tools

- \_\_\_ **Head lamp** and **flashlight**
- \_\_\_ Knife
- \_\_\_ **USB charger for cigarette lighter**
- \_\_\_ Paper map of your area
- \_\_\_ Scissors, tweezers
- \_\_\_ **Work gloves**
- \_\_\_ **Large candle** (for warmth)
- \_\_\_ **Multi-tool**
- \_\_\_ **Duct tape**
- \_\_\_ **Jumper battery** (instead of jumper cables)
- \_\_\_ Pen and pad and permanent marker

- \_\_\_ **Lighter** and **fire starter**
- \_\_\_ **Rope** or **paracord**
- \_\_\_ **Umbrella**
- \_\_\_ **Flares** or **safety light**
- \_\_\_ **Ice scraper / snow brush**

### Vehicle check

- \_\_\_ Tank is full of fuel
- \_\_\_ Proper fluid levels (transmission, coolant, oil, washer, steering)
- \_\_\_ Tires are in good shape
- \_\_\_ Tire pressure correct (**tire gauge**)
- \_\_\_ Lights work properly
- \_\_\_ Wiper blades are in good shape
- \_\_\_ Heater and A/C work properly
- \_\_\_ Check brakes, air filter, battery

### Spare tire

- \_\_\_ You know where your spare is located
- \_\_\_ Your spare tire is in good shape
- \_\_\_ You know where your tire jack is located
- \_\_\_ You know how to change a flat tire

### Practice

Stage an occasional drill with your family, using these items, to make sure you have the correct equipment and that you'll know how to use it when you really need to. There's nothing short of actually using something, to show you how little you know about how to use it.

Make sure you know how to use your mobile ham radio, your jumper battery, and **your phone's GPS**.

### Finally

It's not feasible for you to carry all of this gear in your vehicle 24/7. But if you do need to leave in a hurry, you might want to have some of it ready ahead of time to easily grab on your way out.